

WAYZATA PARKS & TRAILS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2015

THE LAFAYETTE CLUB, MINNETONKA BEACH, MN

The Wayzata Parks & Trails Board held a Holiday and “meet new Board Member” reception at the Lafayette Club on January 21, at 6 PM. The Reception was hosted by Chairman, Dan Baasen. The gathering was called to order in the Hearth Room and the full Board was in attendance with the exception of new Board member Sarah Showalter who was excused. Board members Borg Babcock, Baasen, Cunningham, Evans, and Randolph greeted new Board members James McWethy and Tyler Purdy with a social hour to get acquainted and allow all members to gain knowledge of member interests in the Parks & Trails System of the City of Wayzata. Specifically, what each member hoped to bring to the Board in personal interests and talents to provide the City a responsive organization.

There was considerable discussion of potential programs which could bring residents and visitors to utilize our P&T in neighborhood and family activities.

The social part of the official meeting for January adjourned at 7 pm.

PARKS & TRAILS 1/21/15

The regular meeting for January of the Parks & Trails Board was called to order at 7:15 with members Baasen, Borg Babcock, Cunningham, Evans, Randolph, McWethy, and Purdy in attendance. Sarah Showalter was absent. Dave Dudinsky, Staff Liaison for the City of Wayzata was present.

Approval of Minutes from the November 19th meeting were approved as written with two abstentions (McWethy & Purdy)

Approval of Minutes from the December 11th meeting were approved as written with two abstentions (McWethy & Purdy)

Agenda the January meeting was approved as submitted.

Chair Baasen recognized the contributions this past year of Bridget Anderson, Council Liaison to P&T. Her contributions were numerous and her support of the group valued as 2014 was a turning point for the Board. Bridget’s letter to the Board was read to the Group thanking the P&T Board for past and future contributions to the City of Wayzata. Her excitement about this very functional Board bodes well for the City in the future. A motion was made and passed to put a thank you together in recognition of Bridget’s support of this Board. Sarah Randolph volunteered to coordinate a suitable tribute.

The Board then conducted a “round robin” citing motivations and support of participating in the P&T Board:

Joanie Cunningham; New to Wayzata, she wanted to be involved in City. Her passion for the trails surrounding Wayzata lead her to P&T. Her strong IT background aided her leadership on website design for P&T with the new Wayzata upgraded site.

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Sarah Randolph; her mother had served Wayzata on the City Council and Sarah wanted to continue her family legacy. Likes the “fun stuff” that P&T has brought to the City. She has been very instrumental in activities and aided the design of the P&T information map design.

Merrily Borg Babcock; served on Planning Commission and very involved with the Parks & Trails Task Force that helped create P&T Board. Parks were more of a maintenance presence before Board created. She emphasized the Board's openness to new ideas. She identified herself as an activist and an artist, both evident in her contributions to Wayzata.

Dan Baasen; long time resident of Wayzata, member of Lake Effect Steering Committee, and interested in an interactive P&T System. It took the Board almost half a year to get focussed as there wasn't a lot of guidance when the Board was created. Felt that 2014 saw real progress and that P&T emerged as healthy constructive organization. He shared that 2015 would focus on a strategic plan for the Board's next five years, develop a succession plan for Board leadership, and support activities of the Board. He asked all Board members be advocates for P&T and be involved!

Holly Evans; a non resident member of Board but very passionate about what she sees in Wayzata. She served on Lake Effect Advisory Board, was instrumental in the design and completion of Parks & Trails Map Project. She is excited about the new members of P&T. Her focus currently is to bring activities to the P&T system.

Jim McWethy; business background in Wayzata; Sports Hut, Ski Jammers, now Sun & Slope. Recently wrapped up advisory role with Chamber of Commerce's five year Strategic Plan. Jim talked about “what makes small town desirable”; Quality Education, Scenic Ambiance, Connectivity with Residents, and a strong Parks & Trails System. He feels that with three major trails intersecting in Wayzata, Luce Line, Dakota, and Minnetonka, we have a terrific opportunity to bring people to the City. He feels the Lake is our #1 asset and would like to see more winter sports activities.

Tyler Purdy; relatively new to Wayzata, four years, uses the system as does his family. he believes we need to protect and embellish what we have through activities in our Parks. Tyler grew up in Orono, now lives in North Broadway neighborhood. He spent several years living in Aspen, Colorado and saw the positive effect of festivals.

Chair Baasen welcomed the new members and their experience. Thanked the returning members for their dedication and past contributions.

Dave Dudinsky; reviewed his Wayzata history as Director of Public Works, cited that Parks were mostly a maintenance priority of the City. P&T really got clobbered in 2008 through 2011 because of the economic turndown and he lost most of his staff. It was then that the Volunteer program got started with “Dig It”. With the creation of P&T an

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advocate for a better system evolved. Dave shared that he is very happy with the contributions of the Board and excited about the contributions so far. He noted that P&T has a big role in the advancement of Lake Effect Plan. He noted the City Council needed the support of P&T Board. 2014 was a heavy event year with permits more than doubling year over year from 24 to 52 .

Sarah Randolph inquired about the LMCD and its involvement with the proposed expanded docks. Dan explained the process facing Wayzata for approval and said the focus of LMCD was Regulation and Safety on the Lake. Dave indicated that the Burlington Northern RR was concerned about people crossing the tracks. Wayzata believes expanding docks at the Depot and Broadway docks will bring more visitors to the City and its businesses and restaurants. Dave talked about the Friday night ice activity prior to the Chili Open including a lighted ice rink and showing of movie "Frozen" Merrily noted that Lake Effect was great opportunity but reminded us that all Parks and Trails are priorities for the Board.

Dan reviewed the Mission with all members. He reminded everyone that we served as an advisory to the City Council. Priorities are to involve all aspects of the population in our Parks and Trails through increased activities and programs and improved information to the public through the website and other media.

OLD BUSINESS

Joanie and Merrily updated us on the progress with the Website. It appears to be a strong interactive platform and is slated to go "live" in mid February. Updates throughout the year are available to us as are avenues to publish coming events and activities.

Dan discussed the need for the Board to develop a Strategic Plan for P&T. Let us not lose sight of what success looks like for us and the City. The SP will provide a roadmap to the future of Wayzata Parks & Trails. Plan calls for a Board workshop in the next few months to kick off development of the SP. Communications (three- dimensional) will be critical to our success. With the loss of our Liaison to the City Council, it will fall on us to keep the Council informed and to maintain knowledge of Council actions that could affect P&T.

East Buffer Zone. Dave noted three elements to the Zone; Landscaping at the Roundabout, the trail from Superior Street to Lake Street along the Eastern edge of the Pres Homes project, and the Hotel project starting this summer.

Dave suggested a workshop with the Council in February or March to get all perspectives to this project.

100 trees project. Merrily asked Dave for an update on project and whether it was going forward and how. Is this separate from EAB replenishment?

Dan asked Dave for updates on several of the approved projects for 2015. Dave responded that it would take a few months to clarify unfinished 2014 projects and what 2015 projects would be active this year. He was confident that this would see completion of many projects.

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- A. Chairs: Bell Courts, Beach, Margaret Circle ordered, Depot needed clarification.
- B. Beach H Dock: Part of LMCD approval submission. Size still not determined
- C. Beach food service. Facilities updated, ready for vendor validation
- D. Website: ready for February Launch he will attempt to set up meeting for Merrily and Joanie.
- E. Paddle Ball Courts: 2016-2017 project
- F. Dog Park seating and shelter will check
- G. Fireplace and shelter will advise
- H. Bocce Ball Courts

NEW BUSINESS

CREATION OF ESSENTIAL SUBCOMMITTEES

With the addition of three new board members, Dan feels that we can establish several subcommittees to effectively function in 2015 and beyond.

He asks that Board members consider their personal strengths in approaching vital actions and activities in 2015. Examples would be:

- Strategic Plan Committee
- Website & Communications
- Activities and Programs
- Project Committee
- Board Secretary
- Grants and Finance

This not a final recommendation, just thoughts to consider

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn: approved

Reminder. Next meeting February 18th, 6PM with possible workshop either before or after.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Baasen, Chair